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Record Supplement

for

January, 1948

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CODE SYMBOLS

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The Gramophone Shop Record Supplement

AS	L'Anthologie Sonore	MS	Sonora
B	Brunswick	MW	Hargail
BAM	Boite à Musique	OL	L'Oiseau Lyre
C	Columbia	P	Parlophone
CAP	Capitol	PD	Polydor
CET	Cetra	PIL	Pilotone
CM	Columbia Masterworks Set	SON	Sonart
CON	Continental	TC	Technichord
CX	Columbia Two-Record Masterworks Set	U	Ultraphone
D	Decca	V	Victor
G	Gramophone (HMV)	VM	Victor Masterpiece Set
K	Keynote		
MC	Musicraft		

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THE GRAMOPHONE SHOP, Inc.
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Vol. XI

Record Supplement for January, 1948

No. 1

BACH (JOHANN SEBASTIAN)

BACH: Mattheus-Passion — Abridged recording
(Sung in German). Soloists, Chorus of St.
Thomas' Church, Leipzig, Leipzig Gewandhaus
Orchestra conducted by Günther Ramin. Six-
teen 12" imported records (31 sides), Nos. G-
DB6516/DBS6524 & DB6525/31; price \$40.61.
(Also available in automatic sequence: G-DB
9165/DBS9173 & DB9174/80)

The soloists in this remarkable performance
are: Tiana Lemnitz (soprano), Friedel Beckmann
(mezzo-soprano), Karl Erb (Evangelist) (tenor),
Gerhard Hüsch (Jesus) (baritone), Siegfried
(Judas, Peter, Pilate, the High Priest) (bass).

Johann Sebastian Bach's "Passion According
to St. Matthew" has been recorded by the Choir
of St. Thomas' Church, Leipzig with the Leipzig
Gewandhaus Orchestra and a distinguished group
of soloists under the direction of Günther Ramin.
The recording, comprising 63 of the 78 items from
the vocal score, is virtually a complete concert
version of the oratorio.

This set, recorded during the war under ad-
verse conditions, is obviously one of the major
gramophonic triumphs of our time. The authentic
tradition of Bach's own church pervades the entire
recording. Günther Ramin, organist of St. Thomas'
and famous musicologist is an ideal choice for
conductor.

The Passion, composed during 1728/29 is one
of Bach's crowning achievements, and has long
deserved a performance such as this. The first per-
formance took place, as far as can be ascertained,
on Good Friday, April 15, 1729, although there
is no evidence of this in the autograph score which
was prepared for a performance about 1740. Part
II, however, was published at Easter, 1729, so the
inference is a fair one. The first performance was
given at St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, as was Men-
delssohn's revival, some 100 years later. Therefore,
great authenticity is attached to the present re-
cording by Bach's own choir.

The recording is magnificent throughout. The
choir is large enough to give impressive renditions
of the larger choruses, while preserving the flexi-
bility that Bach's contrapuntal writing demanded.
A harpsichord is used as a continuo rather than the
organ.

The soloists, who are familiar to most record
collectors, are ideally suited to the demanding
arias and recitatives. In a few cases, there has
been a slight rearranging of the numbers in order
to permit an aria to fit on one record side, with-
out a break. This procedure is commendable.

It might be added that the set was released
with different numbers when it appeared in Ger-
many during the war. This is the first of the war-
time issues to be released in England.

BACH: Cantata No. 140, Wachet auf, ruft die Stimme. Complete recording (Sung in German). Soloists, Victor Chorale & Orchestra conducted by Robert Shaw. Four 10" records (8 sides) in Set VM-1162; price complete with album \$5.25. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1162; \$4.20)

The soloists in this performance are Suzanne Freil (soprano), Roy Russell (tenor), Paul Matthen (bass), Joseph Fuchs (violin) and Robert Bloom (oboe). The vocalists are all good and the instrumentalists, excellent. The chorus, under Mr. Shaw's spirited direction, is very effective. This is the only complete recording of this Cantata available at the present time (early recordings in French and Catalan were abridged and are no longer available).

The recording is very good, with a fine balance between the chorus and the orchestra.

BACH—Cantata No. 140, Wachet auf — No. 1, Opening Chorus (arr. Bantock). City of Birmingham Orchestra conducted by George Weldon. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. C-DX1388; price \$2.62.

An effective orchestral transcription of the opening Chorus from the Cantata No. 140 has been capably performed by the City of Birmingham Orchestra.

BACH: Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F major (5 sides) & Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland (arr. Klemperer), (1 side). Pro Musica Orchestra conducted by Otto Klemperer. Three 12" records in Set VOX-618; price complete with album \$7.35. (Available in automatic sequence only)

BACH: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major. Pro Musica Orchestra conducted by Otto Klemperer. Two 12" records (4 sides) in Set VOX-621; price complete with album \$5.25. (Available in automatic sequence only).

The first two volumes of a series which will eventually encompass the entire Brandenburg Concertos have been released. The distinguished conductor, Otto Klemperer, gives authentic treatments to the scores, but the recording leaves much to be desired. The vinylite pressings are of fair quality. It might be added that Dr. Klemperer uses a harpsichord continuo. It is unfortunate that none of the soloists were named on the labels, for they are most noteworthy.

BACH: Prelude and Fugue in B minor (Peters Vol. 2, No. 10). Fernando Germani (organ of Westminster Cathedral, London). Two 12" imported records (4 sides), Nos. G-C3604/5; price \$4.00.

A new organ recording by the distinguished Italian organist, Fernando Germani, is also a first recording of one of Bach's most magnificent Preludes and Fugues. The recording is truly remarkable.

BACH: Sonata No. 4 in D minor, for unaccompanied violin (Partita No. 2) — Chaconne only (arr. Segovia) (3 sides) & Gavotte for Lute (arr. Segovia) (1 side). Andres Segovia (guitar). Two 12" records in Set MC-85; price complete with album \$2.00. (Available in automatic sequence only).

Andres Segovia has been acclaimed for his magnificent renditions of Bach on the guitar. The current set is one of his major accomplishments in recent years. The recording is excellent and the surfaces are quite good. The Gavotte for Lute is the same as the Gavotte in the Sonata No. 6 for Unaccompanied Violin.

BEETHOVEN (LUDWIG VAN)

BEETHOVEN: Quartet No. 4 in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4. Paganini String Quartet. Three 12" imported records (6 sides), Nos. G-DB 6488/90; price \$7.86. (Also available in automatic sequence: G-DB9162/4)

Last month we had the three quartets of Op. 59 played by this organization. We have recently received a limited supply of another recording of the same organization, made in England during a recent tour. Although it has been recorded many times before, this quartet is lovely and can stand many such recordings as the present one. Technically, the recording is excellent.

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55 ("Eroica"). Boston Symphony Orchestra conducted by Serge Koussevitzky. Six 12" records (12 sides) in Set VM-1161; price complete with album \$8.40. (Automatic sequence VDM-1161; \$7.35). Also on Vinylite: V-V8; \$14.70; V-DV8; \$13.65.

Serge Koussevitzky second recording of the "Eroica" Symphony is a marked improvement over the older version from a technical point of view, but from an interpretive standpoint, there are the same objections to the choice of tempi and overall interpretation. There is some magnificent orchestral playing, but many times Dr. Koussevitzky's rhythmic distortions interfere with the complete enjoyment of the work. The recording is very good.

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4 in B flat major, Op. 60. Cleveland Orchestra conducted by George Szell. Four 12" records (8 sides) in Set CMM-705; price complete with album \$5.85. (Available in automatic sequence only)

A remarkably vital and satisfying interpretation of one of Beethoven's oft-recorded works has been brilliantly recorded by Columbia. George Szell, making his Columbia debut as a conductor, gives a completely satisfying reading of this work. The recording has more room resonance than recent releases by this organization, and as a result, there is a more life-like quality which is most attractive.

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92. Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Eugen Jochum. Five 12" imported records (10 sides), Nos. U-G18007/11; price \$8.75. (Available in manual sequence only)

We would like to call our subscribers' attention to a very fine European recording by Eugen Jochum and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. This performance ranks with the very finest of the Seventh Symphony. The recording is technically excellent.

BEETHOVEN: Battle Symphony: Wellington's Victory at Vittoria, Op. 91 (4 sides) & King Stephan Overture, Op. 117 (2 sides). Janssen Symphony Orchestra conducted by Werner Janssen. Four 12" records in Set ARTIST-JS14; price complete with album \$7.35. (Available in automatic sequence only)

Beethoven's pot-boiler "Wellington's Victory at Vittoria" has been recorded by the Janssen Symphony Orchestra. This work, composed at the request of Johann Maelzel, was originally conceived for a Panharmonicon, a kind of mechanical orchestra. The composer makes use of "Rule Britannia", "God Save the King" and "Marlborough" in the various sections. Its great popularity in Beethoven's own day explains much about the early 19th century. The sections of the symphony are marked: **The Combat; Assault March; Symphony of Victory.** There was an ancient recording available at one time by Frieder Weissmann, but that has been withdrawn. The present recording is resonant and clear.

Also included in the set is a recording of a little-known overture, "King Stephan," composed for the play by von Kotzebue. There is no other recording of this selection available at the present time.

The plastic pressings are of excellent quality.

BLOCH (ERNEST)

BLOCH: Quartet No. 2. Stuyvesant String Quartet. Four 12" records (8 sides) in Set INT-IM302; price complete with album \$5.25. (Available in automatic sequence only)

Written at Agate Beach, Oregon, the Bloch Quartet No. 2 was completed October 28, 1945. Its first performance took place in London on Oct. 9, 1946. The work is not for the new collector in the field of chamber music, for it is quite uncompromising in its feeling. The movements are marked: **Moderato; Presto — Moderato — Presto; Andante; Allegro molto — Passacaglia — Fugue — Epilogue.** The recording and performance are excellent but there seems to be more surface noise than the earlier releases by this company. This is the first recording of this work.

BRAHMS (JOHANNES)

BRAHMS: *Fantasien*, Op. 116. Leonard Shure (piano). Four 10" records (8 sides) in Set VOX-178; price complete with album \$5.00. (Available in automatic sequence only)

The *Fantasien*, Op. 116 consist of the following: *Capriccio* in D minor, Op. 116, No. 1; *Intermezzo* in A minor, Op. 116, No. 2; *Capriccio* in G minor, Op. 116, No. 3; *Intermezzi* in E major, Op. 116, No. 4; E minor, Op. 116, No. 5; E major, Op. 116, No. 6; *Capriccio* in D minor, Op. 116, No. 7.

Most of these selections have been recorded before. The *Intermezzo* in E minor, Op. 116, No. 5 is a first recording. However, three others are not available in any other performance at the present time. Vox is to be congratulated for recording this complete group of Brahms piano works. The performances are imaginative and the recording is satisfactory.

DYORAK (ANTONIN)

DYORAK: *Slavonic Dances*, Op. 46 & Op. 72 — Complete recording (17 sides) & *Polonaise* in E flat major (1 side). Czech Broadcasting Orchestra conducted by Otakar Jeremias. Nine 12" imported records, Nos. U-F12401/9; price complete with album \$17.50.

Authentic performances of Dyorak's *Slavonic Dances* have been recorded by the Czech Broadcasting Orchestra under the leadership of Otakar Jeremias. There was an earlier recording of the complete set, but these albums have not been obtainable for some time. The present imported set has been very well recorded and since it provides performances which are notable for their authentic feeling, it may be wholeheartedly recommended. Our supply of these albums is limited at the present time.

FRANCK (CÉSAR)

FRANCK: *Sonata in A major*, for Violin & Piano. Zino Francescatti (violin) & Robert Casadesu (piano). Four 12" records (8 sides) in Set CMM-717; price complete with album \$5.85. (Available in automatic sequence only)

Two distinguished French instrumentalists join forces to present a stirring performance of the Cesar Franck Violin Sonata. There have been several recordings of this work in the past, but none can equal the present set from a technical point of view. The Heifetz-Rubinstein performance approaches this version from an interpretive aspect but the superior recording and the particular feeling for the work which these musicians seem to possess makes this version preferable to all others.

The resonant recording is most praiseworthy.

FRANCK: *Symphony in D minor*. Paris Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Charles Münch. Four 12" imported records (8 sides) in Set D-EDA36; price complete with album \$9.45. (Available in automatic sequence only)

An imaginative and rhythmically exciting performance of Franck's oft-recorded *Symphony in D minor* is available on these English Decca FFRR surfaces. Recorded in the Assembly Hall, Walthamstow, this orchestra under the distinguished French conductor, Charles Münch, gives a stirring performance, devoid of much of the sentimentality often present in interpretations of the work. By using slightly faster tempi than other conductors, M. Münch is able to get the entire work on eight sides.

The English recording is resonant and clear.

HANDEL (GEORG FREDERICK)

HANDEL: Water Music Suite (arr. Harty). London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Basil Cameron. Two 12" imported records (4 sides) in Set D-EDA38; price complete with album \$5.25. (Available in automatic sequence only)

A new and magnificent recording of Sir Hamilton Harty's arrangement of the "Water Music" of Handel tops all other existing versions. The FFRR recording is stunning in its impact and the interpretation is vital and brilliantly set forth.

The movement are marked: *Allegro; Air; Bourrée; Hornpipe; Andante espressivo; Allegro deciso*. It might be noted that the order of the Air and Bourrée is reversed so that the air would fit on one side without a break.

HANDEL: Sonata in D major, Op. 1, No. 13, for Violin & Figured Bass. Simon Goldberg (violin) & Gerald Moore (piano). Two 12" imported records (4 sides) in Set P-P59; price complete with album \$5.25. (Available in manual sequence only)

For the first post-war recording Simon Goldberg plays the Violin Sonata No. 4 of Handel with piano accompaniment by Gerald Moore. This work has been recorded before by other violinists, but none has had the recording that the present version enjoys. The Menuhin—Gazelle recording, which has been the only version available for some time, has recently been discontinued, so the present version is unchallenged at the present time.

HOVHANES (ALAN)

HOVHANESS: Orchestral Compositions. Soloists & Orchestra conducted by Alan Hovhaness. Three 12" records (6 sides) in Set DISC-876; price complete with album \$5.62. (Available in automatic sequence only)

Contents: Lousadzak (The Coming of Light) (Concerto No. 1 for Piano and String Orchestra imitating the Tar, Kanoon, Oud and Saz) (4 sides). Maro Ajemian (piano) & Orchestra. Tzaikerk (Evening Song) (2 sides). Anahid Ajemian (violin) & Philip Kaplan (flute) with Orchestra.

These interesting compositions reflect the influence of oriental music on a contemporary composer. Mr. Hovhaness is of Armenian extraction and his compositions show the impact that native music has made on his style. The compositions themselves are most attractive. Disc is to be congratulated for recording these unusual contemporary works, which have the stamp of authenticity since the composer is also the conductor.

The recording is satisfactory.

KHACHATURIAN (ARAM)

KHACHATURIAN: Masquerade Suite. Boston "Pops" Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler. Two 12" records (4 sides) in Set VM-1166; price complete with album \$4.20. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1166; \$3.15)

In the July 1947 Supplement, we reviewed a recording of this suite which was played by the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jacques Rachmilovich. The present set is superior to that version in every way. The recording is among the best of the recent releases and Mr. Fiedler has a feeling for music of this type. The Suite was arranged from the music composed for a 1939 production of Lermontov's romantic play "Masquerade". The Suite was first heard in Moscow in 1944 and has since become a popular favorite. The movements are marked: *Valse, Mazurka, Nocturne, Romance, Polka*. The music is in a neo-romantic style marked by broad satire.

MAHLER (GUSTAV)

MAHLER: Symphony No 5 in C sharp minor. Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York conducted by Bruno Walter. Eight 12" records (16 sides) in Set CMM-718; price complete with album \$10.85. (Available in automatic sequence only)

Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony was published in 1903 and performed for the first time the following year with the composer directing the orchestra. It is a long, serious work, full of beautiful melodies and rich orchestral effects. There are echoes of Richard Strauss, Bruckner, Brahms and all the other later 19th century romantic composers.

The five movements are marked: *Trauermarsch* (Funeral March); *Sturmisch bewegt: mit grösster Vehemenz* (Stormily agitated: with great vehemence); *Scherzo: Kräftig, nicht zu schnell* (Vigorously, not too fast); *Adagietto: sehr langsam* (very slowly); *Rondo — Finale — Allegro*. The *Adagietto* has been recorded before by Mr. Walter, but the present performance is easily superior, because of better recording and the orchestra is particularly sensitive to the conductor's wishes. The recording is excellent throughout.

MARCELLO (BENEDETTO)

MARCELLO: Concerto in C minor for Oboe and Orchestra. Leon Goossens (oboe) & Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Walter Süsskind (3 sides) & **FIOCCO:** Arioso (arr. Bent & O'Neill). Leon Goossens (oboe) & Gerald Moore (piano) (1 side). Two 12" imported records, Nos. C-DX1389/90; price \$5.24.

Marcello was a famous Italian composer, pupil of Lotti and Gasparini, who wrote many works in various forms — chamber, stage and vocal. The C minor Oboe Concerto is a particularly lovely example of his music; Leon Goossens performs this composition to perfection and the recording is particularly attractive.

On the last side there is an Arioso by a late 17th or early 18th century composer named Fiocco. There is no information as to the composer's identity beyond this: there was Gioseffo Hector Fiocco and his father Pietro Antonio, but who wrote this music is not clear. The piano is hardly the ideal accompanying instrument for the oboe, especially in a work of this character. However, Mr. Moore plays with great sensitivity and has been exceedingly well recorded.

MOZART (WOLFGANG AMADEUS)

MOZART: Serenade in G major, K. 525 ("Eine kleine Nachtmusik"). London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. Two 12" records in Set VM-1163; price complete with album \$4.20. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1163; \$3.15)

The imported pressings of this attractive recording were reviewed in the November, 1945 Supplement. The recording is incredibly realistic, preserving accurately an inspired performance by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

MOZART: Symphony No. 33 in E flat major, K. 319 (5 sides) & *Le Nozze di Figaro — Overture* (1 side). Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Herbert von Karajan. Three 12" imported records, Nos. C-LX1006/8; price \$7.86. (Also available in automatic sequence: C-LX 8568/70)

A lovely Mozart symphony dating from 1779 again appears on the list. Some years ago Victor issued a recording of this work played by Edwin Fischer and his Chamber Orchestra. This set has been withdrawn in England and America, so the present version is unchallenged. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra has maintained the high standards it set during the pre-war days. With improved methods of recording, the orchestra sounds even better than it did years ago. There is plenty of room resonance, but little of the reverberation which marred some of the recordings. Herbert von Karajan has made a series of recordings with this orchestra, the first of which we have just received.

On the last side of the set there is a light-hearted reading of the Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro."

Quantities of these magnificent recordings are limited at the present time.

OFFENBACH (JACQUES)

OFFENBACH: *Gaité Parisienne — Complete recording* (arr. Rosenthal). Boston "Pops" Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler. Four 12" records (8 sides) in Set VM-1147; price complete with album \$6.30. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1147; \$5.25). Also on Vinylite: V-9; \$10.50; V-DV9; \$9.45.

The complete score from Manuel Rosenthal's music from Offenbach's operettas is now available on records. An earlier recording by Efrek Kurtz and the London Philharmonic Orchestra (CMX-115) was considerably abbreviated.

The music was drawn from "Les Contes d'Hoffman," "Orfée aux Enfers," "La Vie Parisienne," "La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein" and other operettas. Mr. Fiedler has a fine hand for this score and the recording is excellent.

RACHMANINOFF (SERGEI)

RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Op. 27. Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dimitri Mitropoulos. Six 12" records (12 sides) in Set VM-1148; price complete with album \$8.40. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1148; \$7.35)

Dimitri Mitropoulos leads the Minneapolis in a brilliant reading of Rachmaninoff's popular Second Symphony. The work was recorded several years ago by this orchestra and has been the standard version until Artur Rodzinski's fine performance. Now comes an equally fine performance which has been recorded with great fidelity. There is plenty of room resonance and the orchestral tone is very realistic.

RAVEL (MAURICE)

RAVEL: Bolero. Paris Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Charles Münch. Two 12" imported records (4 sides) in Set D-EDA33; price complete with album \$5.25. (Available in automatic sequence only)

It was inevitable that English Decca should get around to recording Ravel's orchestral tour-de-force, the "Bolero" with the FFRR technique. The recording chamber was the Assembly Hall, Walthamstow, which has plenty of room resonance. The French orchestra gives an authentic performance of the work, employing the slower tempi that the composer was known to favor. As a result we have a completely stunning performance and recording, which easily surpasses any earlier version.

ROUSSEL (ALBERT)

ROUSSEL: Petite Suite, Op. 39 (3 sides) & **FAURE:** Pavane in F sharp minor, Op. 50 (1 side). Paris Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Charles Münch. Two 12" imported records in Set D-EDA37; price complete with album \$5.25. (Available in automatic sequence only)

ROUSSEL: Sérénade, Op. 30. Pierre Jamet Instrumental Quintet. Two 12" imported records (4 sides), Nos. G-DB11124/5; price \$5.24. (Available in manual sequence only)

ROUSSEL: Sinfonietta for String Orchestra, Op. 52. Women's Orchestra of Paris conducted by Jane Evard. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. G-W1596; price \$2.62.

Albert Roussel (1869-1937) was a prolific French composer in almost every form. His mildly modernist compositions show the influence of his travels in the Far East as well as the teaching of Debussy and D'Indy.

The "Petite Suite," Op. 29 is divided into three sections, *Aubade*, *Pastorale*, *Masquerade*. It is a pleasantly lyric work charmingly set forth by M. Münch and the Paris Conservatory Orchestra. On the final side of the album there is a performance of the lovely Pavane by Fauré. The choral parts have been omitted. Faster tempi than those employed in the English Columbia version permit it to be fitted on one side of a record.

The "Serenade" is likewise divided into three sections: *Allegro*, *Andante*, *Presto*. The instrumentalists in this fine French recording are: Pierre Jamet (harp) Gaston Grunelle (flute), René Bas (violin), Georges Blanplaine (viola) and Robert Krabansky ('cello). Quantities are limited at the present time.

The "Sinfonietta for String Orchestra," dating from 1934, is divided into three sections: *Allegro molto*; *Andante*; *Allegro*. The Women's Orchestra of Paris gives an exquisite performance of the work which has been most effectively recorded.

TCHAIKOVSKY (PETER ILYCH)

TCHAIKOVSKY: Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a. Andre Kostelanetz and his Orchestra. Three 12" records (6 sides) in Set CMM-714; price complete with album \$4.60. (Available in automatic sequence only)

There seems little need for another recording of the "Nutcracker" Suite, even if it is effectively recorded as the present version. However, Mr. Kostelanetz gives a sensitive reading.

TCHAIKOVSKY: Nutcracker Ballet, Op. 71 — Five Dances. Boston "Pops" Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler. Two 12" records (4 sides) in Set VM-1164; price complete with album \$4.20. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1164; \$3.15)

Contents: Winter Scene; Waltz of the Snowflakes; Pas de Deux; Divertissement de Chocolat; Valse finale.

Victor is to be congratulated for recording these selections from Tchaikovsky's long ballet, "The Nutcracker." Most of these appear on the lists for the first time. A rather unsatisfactory Russian recording of "Chocolat" and the "Valse final" is not obtainable at present. The other selections are recorded for the first time. The "Pas de Deux" represents Tchaikovsky at his best. The music is of sustained interest and has received a superlative performance. The recording is resonant and brilliantly realized.

TCHAIKOVSKY: Pique Dame — Lisa's Aria & Selected Songs. Irre Petina (soprano in Russian) & Orchestra conducted by Walter Hendl. Three 12" records (6 sides) in Set CMM-712; price complete with album \$4.60.

Contents: Pique Dame — Lisa's Aria; None but the Lonely Heart, Op. 6, No. 6; It was Early Spring, Op. 38, No. 2; Where the Dancing was Loudest (At the Ball), Op. 38, No. 3; I Wish, Op. 38, No. 4; Green Grass (The Song of the Bride), Op. 47, No. 7; Whether by Day, Op. 47, No. 6; In This Moonlight Night, Op. 73, No. 3; Don't Doubt Me Dear.

Irre Petina sings a group of Tchaikovsky Songs as well as Lisa's Aria from "Pique Dame." It must be stated that the top of Miss Petina's voice is not equal to the demands of the aria. However, the songs are well sung for the most part. The lush orchestral accompaniments are conducted by Walter Hendl.

There are few recordings of Tchaikovsky's lyrics available today so the present collection should provide the not-too-critical listener with an enjoyable group of songs.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (RALPH)

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: The Lark Ascending. David Wise (violin) & Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent. Two 12" imported records (4 sides), Nos. C-DX1386/7; price \$5.24.

Inspired by Meredith's poem, this lovely pastoral tone picture, "The Lark Ascending," is in the familiar Vaughan Williams idiom. Although composed in 1914, this work was recorded for the first time around 1929, with Isobel Menges as soloist. This version has long since been withdrawn. In March, 1941 we reviewed a performance by Frederick Grinke with the Boyd Neel String Orchestra. This recording has not been obtainable since the war. Now we have a new and superb performance which has been faultlessly recorded by the English engineers. These records should have a warm welcome in the collections of many music lovers. Our present supply is limited at the present time.

THE GRAMOPHONE

We would like to call our readers' attention to the Gramophone, the English magazine which reviews the latest English releases and lists all important European records. Edited by Compton MacKenzie and Christopher Stone, this magazine represents the best of English record criticism. Interesting feature articles appear every month, as do excellent jazz reviews. We are able to supply a limited number of copies each month for 40¢ each.

COLLECTIONS

PIANO MUSIC OF CHOPIN & LISZT. Vladimir Horowitz (piano). Three 12" records (6 sides) in Set VM-1165; price complete with album \$5.25. (Automatic sequence: VDM-1165; \$4.20)

Contents: **CHOPIN:** Ballade No. 1 in G minor; Nocturne No. 5 in F sharp major, Op. 15, No. 2; **LISZT:** Au Bord d'un Source (Années de pèlerinage—First Year, No. 4); Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in D flat major.

A collection of popular favorites is superbly played by the virtuoso, Vladimir Horowitz. The lovely Chopin Nocturne and the Liszt "Au bord d'un source" are particularly well suited to Mr. Horowitz' elegant style. The flashy Hungarian Rhapsody is magnificently played and the grand G minor Ballade is likewise most attractive.

The recording is particularly attractive, with plenty of room resonance.

SUITES BY COUPERIN & MARAIS. Alfred Zighera (viola da gamba) & Putnam Aldrich (harpsichord). Five 10" records (10 sides) in Set TC-T9; price complete with album \$6.15. (Available in automatic sequence only)

Contents: **COUPERIN:** Suite No. 2 in D minor; **MARAIS:** Suite in A minor.

Boston's well-known cellist, Alfred Zighera and Putnam Aldrich, harpsichordist, here record for the first time two magnificent Suites for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord of the late 17th century composers, François Couperin and Marin Marais. Both suites are based on dance tunes of the time and included the famous variations of the variations on the theme "La Folia," said to drive its dancers insane. The deep timbre of the viola da gamba and brilliance of the harpsichord have been superbly recorded.

ROMAN SINGERS OF SACRED MUSIC. Roman Vatican Choirs directed by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Licino Refice. Three 10" records (6 sides) in Set SEVA-18; price complete with album-box \$4.20.

Contents: **REFICE:** Acclamations & Tu es Petrus; **VICTORIA:** Ave Maria; **LISSO:** Jubilate Deo; **PALESTRINA:** Regina Coeli.

The Roman Vatican Singers who have been touring the United States this fall have recorded a group of selections from their repertory. The recordings are technically fine and the choir provides authentic versions of these selections.

OCCASIONAL GREGORIAN CHANTS. St. John's Seminary Choir, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., directed by Dom. Dominic Keller, O.S.B. Five 10" records (10 sides) in Set GREG-OCI; price complete with album \$7.50.

Contents: O Salutaris Hostia (Mode VIII); O Salutaris Hostia (Mode VII); Tantum Ergo (Modern); Hymn: Pingue lingua; Hymn: Adoro Te; Ave Verum; Homo quidam; Cor Jesu Sacratissimum; Parce Domine; Adoremus in aeternum; Laudate Dominum (Tone V); Laudate Dominum (Tone VI); Da pacem; Oremus pro Pontifice; Oremus pro Antistite; Rorate caeli desuper; Hymn: Veni Creator; Hymn: Vexilla Regis prodeunt; O Filii et Filiae.

A fine collection of Gregorian Chants recorded by the Gregorian Institute of America contains many masterpieces of early chants. The recordings are technically excellent.

FRENCH OPERA ARIAS. Giuseppe Lugo (tenor in French) & Orchestra. Three 10" records (6 sides) in Set VOX-176; price complete with album \$3.94.

Contents: **DELIBES:** Lakmé — Fantasia aux divins mensonges; **GOUNOD:** Faust — Salut ô mon dernier matin & Cavatina (Salut demeure); **BIZET:** Les Pêcheurs de Perles — De mon amie, fleur endormie; **MASSNET:** Werther — Lorsque l'enfant revient d'un voyage.

A group of old Polydor recordings by the Italian tenor Giuseppe Lugo have been gathered together in an album. This singer, who was a popular favorite at the Opera Comique in the late '30s, has a pleasant voice, but the recordings are below present day standards and the pressings are of inferior quality. Superior versions of practically every one of these arias are available on either domestic or imported surfaces.

IMPORTED RECORDINGS

Limited Quantities. Order early to assure choice.

BOIELDIEU: *La Dame Blanche* — Ah! quel plaisir & Viens, gentil dame. André D'Arkor (tenor in French) & Orchestra of the Theatre de la Monnaie, Brussels, conducted by Maurice Bastin. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. C-RFX26; price \$2.62.

DEBUSSY: *Voiles & La Fille aux cheveux de lin* (Preludes Nos 2 & 8, Book 1). Solomon (piano). 10" imported record (2 sides), No. G-B9561; price \$1.45.

FAURE: *Nocturne from "Shylock"* Suite, Op. 57 & **ELGAR:** *Elegy for Strings*, Op. 58. Hallé Orchestra conducted by John Barbirolli. 10" imported record (2 sides), No. G-B9567; \$1.45.

GRIEG: *Ein Traum*, Op. 48, No. 6 & *Eros*, Op. 70, No. 1. Richard Tauber (tenor in German) & Orchestra. 10" imported record (2 sides), No. P-R020553; price \$1.57.

HAYDN: *The Creation* — No. 16, *On mighty pens*. Isobel Baillie (soprano) & Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by George Weldon. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. C-DX1392; price \$2.62.

HEROLD: *Zampa* — *Overture*. London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Basil Cameron. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. D-K1453; price \$2.10.

MOZART: *Don Giovanni* — No. 11, *Dalla sua pace & Die Zauberflöte* — No. 3, *Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön* (Bildnisarie). Hugo Meyer-Welfling (tenor in German) & Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Rudolf Moralt. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. C-DX1358; price \$2.62.

MUSSORGSKY: *Boris Godunov* — *Nursery Scene Pt. 1* (Song of the Gnat) & *Pt. 2* (Song of the Parrot). Derek Barsham (treble), Gladys Palmer (contralto), Norman Lumsden (bass) (sung in English) & London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Stanford Robinson. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. D-K1601; price \$2.10.

SCHUBERT: *Die Junge Nonne*, Op. 43, No. 1 & *Gretchen am Spinnrade*, Op. 2. Kathleen Ferrier (contralto in German) & Phyllis Spurr (piano). 12" imported record (2 sides), No. D-K1632; price \$2.10.

VERDI: *Rigoletto* — Ah! Solo per me l'infamia & *Piangi, fanciulla* & **ROSSINI:** *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* — *Dunque io son*. Margherita Carosio & Carlo Tagliabue (soprano & baritone in Italian) & Royal Opera House Orchestra, Covent Garden, conducted by Franco Patanè. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. G-DB6387; price \$2.62.

WEBER: *Afforderung zum Tanz*, Op. 65 (Invitation to the Dance) (arr. Berlioz). National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Anatole Fistoulari. 12" imported record (2 sides), No. D-K1108; price \$2.10.

DICTION RECORDS

ELIOT (T. S.): Four Quartets — Complete recording. Thomas Streans Eliot (reading his own poems). Six 12" imported records (12 sides), Nos. G-C3598/603; price \$12.00. (Available in manual sequence only)

This remarkable set of records, made under the auspices of the British Council, contains T. S. Eliot's poem "Four Quartets." The individual sections are entitled: *Burnt Norton*; *East Coker*; *The Dry Salvages*; *Little Gidding*. Mr. Eliot's voice records very well and he is an exceptionally gifted reader. The set is a major contribution to the somewhat limited group of poets reading their own works. Our supply is limited at the present time.

ROOSEVELT (F. D.). Acceptance Speech, June 27, 1936. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Four 12" records (8 sides) in Set UNION-204; price complete with album \$10.85. (Available in manual sequence only)

The famous "Economic Royalist" Speech is available pressed on unbreakable vinylite.

ROOSEVELT (F. D.). Campaign Address, Chicago, October 14, 1936. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Four 12" records (8 sides) in Set UNION-205; price complete with album \$10.85. (Available in manual sequence only)

One of the late President's fighting campaign addresses recorded complete.

SHOW TUNES

ALLEGRO — Music from the Broadway hit. Members of the original cast with Chorus & Orchestra conducted by Salvatore Dell'Isola. Five 10" records (10 sides) in Set V-K11; price complete with album \$5.25.

The cast in these records from the Richard Rodgers-Oscar Hammerstein II hit includes John Battles, Annamary Dickey, John Conte, Kathryn Lee, Lisa Kirk, etc.

The selections include: *Joseph Taylor, Jr.; I Know It Can Happen Again; One Foot; A Fellow Needs a Girl; So Far; You are Never Away; Wedding; To Have and to Hold & Wish Them Well; Money Isn't Everything; The Gentleman Is a Dope; Allegro; Come Home.*

HIGH BUTTON SHOES — Music from the Broadway hit. Members of the Original cast with Chorus & Orchestra conducted by Milton Rosenstock. Four 10" records (8 sides) in Set V-K10; price complete with album \$4.20.

The cast of these records from the Jule Styne-Sammy Cahn hit includes Phil Silvers, Nanette Fabray, Mark Dawson, Lois Lee, Jack McCauley and Johnny Stewart.

The selections include: *Can't You Just See Yourself; There's Nothing Like a Model "T"; You're My Girl; Get Away for a Day; Papa Won't You Dance with Me; On a Sunday By the Sea; I Still Get Jealous; Nobody Ever Died for Dear Old Rutgers.*

HISTORICAL RECORDS

MARIANNE BRANDT (1842-1921): DONIZETTI: *Lucrezia Borgia* — Brindisi & MEYERBEER: *Le Prophète* — Ah, mon fils. (Sung in German) (Recorded in Vienna, 1905). 10" record (2 sides), No. IRCC-3010; price \$1.75.

ALBERT ALVAREZ (1861-1933): MEHUL: *Joseph — Champs paternels* & ALBERT VAGUET (1865-?): AUBER: *Haydée* — Ah que la nuit est belle (Sung in French). 10" record (2 sides), No. IRCC-3011; price \$1.75.

CLAUDIA MUZIO (1895-1936): VERDI: *Aida* — O patria mia & *Otello* — Ave Maria. (Sung in Italian) (Recorded about 1919). 10" record (2 sides), No. IRCC-2019; price \$1.75.

JOHANNA GADSKI & EDOUARD DE RESZKE: MEYERBEER: *Les Huguénots* — Duet, Act III. (Sung in Italian). (Recorded at an actual performance at the Metropolitan Opera House, January 24, 1903, from cylinders from the Mapleson collection). 12" record (2 sides), No. IRCC-168; price \$2.25.

These acoustic recordings present several famous singers of the past in performances they made famous. The recordings are ancient but the voices emerge with no little realism. Of particular interest is the record from "*Les Huguénots*" which is from the Mapleson collection. The voices are very faint and there is a lot of surface noise, but one can still catch a fleeting glimpse of a performance during the Golden Age of the Metropolitan. Needless to say, the quantities of these records are severely limited.

RECENT DOMESTIC SINGLE RECORDS

BERLIN: *The Freedom Train* & WARD: *America, the Beautiful*. Victor Choral conducted by Robert Shaw. 10" record (2 sides), No. V-10-1368; price 79¢.

BIZET: *Carmen* — Chanson du Toréador & VERDI: *La Traviata* — Di Provenza il mar. Robert Merrill (baritone in French & Italian) & Victor Choral (in Bizet only) with Victor Orchestra conducted by Erich Leinsdorf & Jean Paul Morel. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9794; price \$1.05.

BOITO: *Mefistofele* — L'altra notte & LEONCAVALLO: *I Pagliacci* — Ballatella. Licia Albanese (soprano in Italian) & Victor Orchestra conducted by Frieder Weissmann. 12" records (2 sides), No. V-11-9848; price \$1.05.

BRAHMS: *Intermezzo No. 13 in A major, Op. 118, No. 2* & *Waltz No. 15 in A flat major, Op. 39, No. 15* & SCHUMANN: *Traumerei, Op. 15, No. 7*. Oscar Levant (piano). 12" record (2 sides), No. C-72372D; price \$1.25.

DONIZETTI: *La Favorita* — O mio Fernando. Nan Merriman (mezzo-soprano in Italian) & Victor Orchestra conducted by Frieder Weissmann. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9793; price \$1.05.

GODOWSKY: *Alt Wien* & DRIGO: *Valse bluette*. Jascha Heifetz (violin) & Emanuel Bay (piano). 10" record (2 sides), No. V-10-1345; price 79¢.

GOUNOD: *Faust* — Roi de Thulé & Air des Bijoux. Eleanor Steber (soprano in French) & Victor Orchestra conducted by Jean Paul Morel. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9828; price \$1.05.

HANDEL: *Messiah* — No. 13, Pastoral Symphony (arr. Stokowski) & TRADITIONAL: Russian Christmas Music. Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9837; price \$1.05.

LISZT: *Concerto Themes* & SCHUMANN: *Concerto Themes* (arr. Whittemore & Lowe from Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat major & Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor). Arthur Whittemore & Jack Lowe (duo-pianists). 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9771; price \$1.05.

LISZT: *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C sharp major*. First Piano Quartet. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-46-0011; price \$1.05.

MASSENET: *Thais* — Te souvient-il du lumineux voyage & PUCCINI: *Manon Lescaut* — In quelle trine. Dorothy Kirsten (soprano in French & Italian) & Robert Merrill (baritone) (in Massenet only) with Victor Orchestra conducted by Jean Paul Morel. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9792; price \$1.05.

MOZART: *Don Giovanni* — No. 4, Madamina, il catalogo. Joel Berglund (baritone in Italian) & Orchestra conducted by Leo Blech. 10" record (2 sides), No. V-10-1346; price 79¢.

PONCHIELLI: *La Gioconda* — Cielo e mar & MEYERBEER: *L'Africana* & O Paradiso. Richard Tucker (tenor in Italian) & Metropolitan Opera Orchestra conducted by Emil Cooper. 12" record (2 sides), No. C-72399D; price \$1.25.

PONCHIELLI: *La Gioconda* — *Bella così, Madonna* (Scene and Duet, Act III) & THOMAS: *Mignon* — *Légères hirondelles* (Swallow Duet). Risè Stevens & Ezio Pinza (mezzo-soprano & bass in Italian & French) with Metropolitan Opera Orchestra conducted by Fausto Cleva. 12" record (2 sides), No. C-72371D; price \$1.25.

PONCHIELLI: *La Gioconda* — *Barcarola* & LEONCAVALLO: *I Pagliacci* — *Prologo*. Leonard Warren (baritone in Italian) & Victor Chorale (in Ponchielli only) with Victor Orchestra conducted by Jean Paul Morel & Frieder Weissmann. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9790; price \$1.05.

PONCHIELLI: *La Gioconda* — *Voce di donna* & WAGNER: *Das Rheingold* — *Erda's Warning*. Blanche Thebom (mezzo-soprano in Italian & German) & Victor Orchestra conducted by Frieder Weissman. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9795; price \$1.05.

PROKOFIEV: *Gavotta & March* & RACHMANINOFF: *Daisies & Oriental Sketch*. Jascha Heifetz (violin) & Emanuel Bay (piano). 10" record (2 sides), No. V-10-1355; price 79¢.

SCHUBERT: *Ständchen & Dem Unendlichen*. Lauritz Melchior (tenor in German) & Ignaz Strassfogel (piano). 10" record (2 sides), No. C-17509D; price \$1.00.

SCHUBERT: *Adagio in G minor* (arr. Piatigorsky) & 3 Minuets. Gregor Piatigorsky ('cello) & Ralph Berkowitz (piano). 12" record (2 sides), No. C-72373D; price \$1.25.

SCHUBERT: *Ave Maria & Aufenthalt*. Marian Anderson (contralto in German) & Franz Rupp (piano). 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9836; price \$1.05.

SUK: *Four Pieces, Op. 17* — No. 1, *Quasi Ballata* & No. 2, *Appassionato*. Ginette Neveu (violin) & Jean Neveu (piano). 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9840; price \$1.05.

THOMAS: *Raymond* — *Overture*. City of Birmingham Orchestra conducted by George Weldon. 12" record (2 sides), No. C-72374D; price \$1.25.

VERDI: *Aida* — *Ritorna vincitor & Il Trovatore* — *D'amor sull'ali rosee*. Zinka Milanov (soprano in Italian) & Victor Orchestra conducted by Frieder Weissmann. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9839; price \$1.05.

WAGNER: *Der Meistersinger von Nürnberg* — *Am stillen Herd & Preislied*. Set Svanholm (tenor in German) & Victor Orchestra conducted by Frieder Weissmann. 12" record (2 sides), No. V-11-9791; price \$1.05.

WEBER: *Der Freischütz* — *Overture*. Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy. 12" record (2 sides), No. C-12665D; price \$1.25.



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